

The Falmouth Education Foundation Program Committee considered 25 proposals for a total of \$142,788. The committee recommends the following funding for 22 (88%) of proposals for a total of \$81,690.

Falmouth School District/Multi-School

Early Childhood Education – Excellence in Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Nancy Ashworth-all Kindergartens

The district is implementing new preschool/kindergarten initiatives, including a curriculum called Tools of the Mind, designed to address achievement gaps and help all students become proficient readers. FEF funds will be used to help purchase tools and materials-- iPads and associated apps-- to carry out the intensive student assessment of students' skills that will result in TOTM's individualized instructional approaches and interventions. Success will be measured by student performance in the Tools of the Mind skills, and through family and teacher surveys.

Requested: \$15,300, Granted: \$5000

Energizing Learning Using a Peer Teaching Model (CAST) Tracey Crago, VIPS

CAST (Cross-Age Science Teaching Program) is one of VIPS' longest-running and most successful programs. Participation in the CAST program will provides 8th graders the opportunity to become role models, and provides 3rd graders the opportunity to experience hands-on science learning with older peers. Lawrence students will be trained to become "science buddies" to younger students, and will work with their buddies on projects related to electricity and circuits. FEF funding will purchase some supplies for CAST program's activities and the coordinator's stipend. New elements this year are an activity to reinforce circuitry concepts and a "leave behind" kit for each third grade classroom. Success will be measured through surveys given to participating students and teachers.

Requested: \$1,742, Granted: \$1,750

Building Social Skills in Students w/ Social Communication Disabilities B. Blumberg (LAW), A. Andrade (FHS)

As students with social communication disabilities become teens, daily interactions become more complex and difficult to manage. This project is intended to help students better understand and manage daily social interactions. FEF funding will underwrite the costs connected with purchasing and implementing curricula, tools, and experiences to build social communication skills. Specifically, the grant will pay for picture cards, interactive software, games, and iPads. Student achievement will be assessed at four specially designed "social activities."

Requested: \$2,300, Granted: \$2,300

iPads for Music Korey Charles, East Falmouth and Teaticket Schools

FEF will purchase iPads and apps to be used in innovative ways at two elementary schools. First, iPads will support the continuation and expansion of the Music Memory program by providing a way for students to research and create presentations about composers and their places in musical history. They will also be used to study music notation and promote music literacy through notation apps that allow students to write basic rhythms or even a full ensemble score. Finally, the grant will allow technology-based performance assessment, piloting at the elementary level the assessment approach that is already used at grades 7-12.

Requested: \$4,895, Granted: \$4895

Preschool Curriculum Library District-wide pre-school teachers (housed at East Falmouth and Teaticket)

Falmouth is implementing the Tools of the Mind Curriculum for preschool students; it is designed to assess individual skill levels and employ interventions, with the goal of closing achievement gaps and helping all students become proficient readers. Resources, particularly non-fiction resources for pre-schoolers, are very limited. FEF funds will partially support a non-fiction library that all pre-school teachers will use. It will be the foundation for structured lessons

related to curriculum themes in science, math, social studies, and literacy. Success will be measured by evaluation of student mastery of math, science, social studies, and literacy/play curriculum objectives.

Requested: \$4,308, Granted: \$3000

Falmouth High School

Advanced Placement Environmental Science Christine Brothers

FHS has put all the pieces in place to create a robust Advanced Placement Environmental Science program, including support from WHOI, Mass Audubon, and other scientific entities in the area. FEF funds, along with grants from other organizations and the district, will be used to purchase materials and equipment (books, DVD's, lab equipment, maps, posters, kits, etc.) for hands-on projects. The project will be evaluated through regular assessment of student work, through performance on the AP exam, and through student feedback.

Requested: \$6,579, Granted: \$6,580

Sand Dunes, Seals, and Solitude Jane Baker

Falmouth students are often unacquainted with the Outer Cape, which has been a center for artists and writers for decades. Students also have few opportunities to create works of art in real-world settings with professional artists. FEF funding will support a collaborative project in which Art and English Lit students from FHS travel to Provincetown to explore the seals, dunes, and artists' shacks of the area with their teachers, local plein-air painters, a biologist from WHOI, the seal project director from the Center for Coastal Studies, and the Broadside Press Editor and Brandeis University Poet in Residence. They will then create works of art (landscapes, direct nature studies, and an art installation) based on their experiences. They will also learn about and create "Haibun", a way of chronicling experience through prose, poetry, and images. Work will be displayed at the FHS science fair and submitted to the Eco-Arts Festival in Provincetown.

Requested: \$6,182, Granted: \$6,185

Falmouth Tea Party Corine Adams

FHS art teacher Corine Adams will involve her students in a cross-disciplinary project in which they learn about Falmouth's history from members of the Historical Society and then create ceramic representations of Falmouth's past. They will create teapots which represent an historical era, and a large garden totem, portraying significant local historical events. The ceramics will be displayed at the Museums on the Green; at the opening reception--a tea party--, students will be able to discuss Falmouth history with the visiting public. FEF funds will be used to purchase equipment (a wheel) and supplies, such as glazes and clay, as well as transportation, for the project. Success will be measured by student performance on ceramic creations and at the exhibition.

Requested: \$3,815, Granted: \$3,600

Reading a French Chapter Book Laurie Jensen

Books available to French students in levels 1 and 2 are very short, and many are out of date. This project is designed to fully prepare students for levels 3 and 4 by challenging their skills and building vocabulary and fluency. FEF funds will be used to purchase copies of an up-to-date, relevant French chapter book. In addition, because the book is about a French pen pal, it will lead into a new opportunity available to Falmouth French students. Together with several other teachers, the grant applicant is offering students the opportunity to create their own pen pal relationship and, potentially, exchange visits with their pen pal as part of a sister-school relationship with a school in Lyon, France. Success will be measured through assessment of student fluency.

Requested: \$250, Granted: \$250

Lawrence School

Full STEAM Ahead! Karyn Phares

STEAM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math – a new cross-disciplinary concept that was introduced to Lawrence School through a prior grant; this is an expansion of last year's project. It will continue to combine art with principles of math and science, and it will continue to build in community service opportunities, such as this year's successful Cup of Life event, which benefited the Cape Cod Center for Women and Children. Expansion will include increased enrollment in the after-school Clay Club, and outreach to disengaged students through a series of wheel-throwing workshops. It will also include more extended projects, and more time on the wheel. FEF funds will help purchase additional wheels. All students will be evaluated on their creations through a rubric, and they will write project reflections and STEAM applications reviews as part of their project outcomes.

Requested: \$5,460, Granted: \$4,000

One Small Step: iPads for Executive Functioning Joan Tegge

Special education students often have difficulty with executive functioning (the ability to manage time and space, initiate tasks, plan steps, sequence ideas, memorize facts, retain new concepts, and pay attention). As a result, many are unable to complete assignments, show up on time for class, or arrive on time for events. iPads with appropriate apps can provide individual students with the tools they need to record and complete assignments, prepare for tests, and share their work. This grant will fund a pilot project, including iPads and apps, to be implemented at the Lawrence School. The pilot begins with a Kick-Off Day, when students will be trained in use of the apps. It continues with ongoing monitoring of student growth in executive function, engagement, and achievement. It culminates with a formal review and presentation to teachers, administrators, and the district director of technology.

Requested: \$10,638, Granted: \$5,300

Lawrence School Music Technology Eileen Cahill, Andrew Fietek

In 2012, with FEF funding, Lawrence School launched a new Music Technology curriculum and partially updated its music lab. This grant will help complete the update and expand the music lab, which is using many outdated and dysfunctional machines, and add electronic keyboards to ensure all students have access to the equipment. Additionally, the curriculum will be expanded to include multi-media projects, such as creating original podcasts, original music for student documentaries, and PSAs. Success will be assessed through in-class assignments, project rubrics, and peer review.

Requested: \$7,191, Granted: \$5,000

Morse Pond School

Rekindling the Battle of the Books Elizabeth Abbott

The Battle of the Books reading incentive program, originally funded by FEF, works well for many students and has grown over the years. However, some students have reading challenges and find it difficult or impossible to take part in the program. By accessing audio books through Kindle Fires, students with reading challenges and comprehension challenges will have the ability to take part in this successful school-wide event. FEF funding will partially support purchase of both the Kindle Fires and a list of Audible recorded books. Project success will be measured by anonymous student feedback given on a Google form after the event, and through evaluation of circulation statistics.

Requested: \$6,217, Granted: \$4,000

North Falmouth Elementary School

iPads in Grade Four Colleen Durepo, with all grade 4 teachers

Last year, an FEF grant funded the purchase of several iPads for fourth graders in Colleen Durepo's classroom. The intention was to increase student motivation for reading while also providing teaching targeted to individual students' needs. Evaluation showed that the project was successful in improving students' test scores and motivation (all 22 students increased scores in comprehension and fluency, and 28% increased enough to move to a higher percentile rank). This project is designed to expand Colleen's work to all grade 4 classrooms in North Falmouth School. FEF funds will help purchase additional iPads and associated apps.

Requested: \$13,808, Granted: \$6,500

An Online Literary Magazine to Improve Student Writing Kim Lebeouf, Deb McCurdy, Maryann Morris, Kim Muma

Test data show that students need to improve their writing skills. Online publishing provides an interactive, innovative, and engaging way to do this. FEF funding will help support the purchase of Chromebooks – laptops that run Google Chrome (a web browser) for use by all third graders. Students will use Google docs free word processor and presentation programs to create their work, and store their documents in the “cloud.” Work can be accessed from home, and revision history can be tracked. This is a first step in the district in the use of Chromebooks. Teachers will use writing rubrics to measure improvement through the year.

Requested: \$6,816, Granted: \$3,500

Mullen Hall Elementary School

A Year in the Life of an Integrated Laptop Anne Realini

The integrated fourth grade classroom at Mullen Hall includes both the highest and lowest-achieving children in the school. These two groups need different types of instruction; the project is designed to support differentiation in all subject areas, so students at various skill levels can be challenged. FEF funds will purchase four laptops with appropriate software to allow diverse groups of students to learn at their own pace and in their own style, in a shared setting. Computers would be used for phonics, test prep, typing, science fair, enrichment, and general academics. Success will be measured by evaluating student progress relative to curriculum standards; additionally the teacher will be evaluating, based on her past experience, whether engagement and achievement have been impacted by the use of the computers.

Requested: \$1,320, Granted: \$1,320

Building a Cross Grade Level Community of Learners Melissa Horton and Tracy Quidley

Research shows that cooperative learning with peers at different grade levels enhances social competence and self esteem and also builds higher achievement and learning skills. This project teams a veteran teacher with little technological expertise with a new teacher who is technologically savvy. Their goal is to create a cross-grade community of learners (including themselves) that spans all subject areas and helps students see how foundational skills and concepts in second grade connect to more advanced learning in fourth grade. Students will teach each other, using iPads and apps, by creating multimedia presentations, videos, read-alouds, interactive book talks, and webquests. The teachers hope this approach will result in students being more motivated and persistent as they gain skills. Success will be measured through student reflections, assessment of student skills, and evaluation of disciplinary and behavioral referrals. Results will be presented at a staff meeting.

Requested: \$5,927, Granted: \$4,000

East Falmouth Elementary School

Best Seat in the Class Jill Meserve

In order to meet academic standards, young children must sit still for long periods in the classroom. This is very difficult for many youngsters, who need to move their bodies in order to stay focused and on task. Stability balls (large inflatable exercise balls) can be used as seats, and help children “get their wiggles out” while also staying focused on their schoolwork. Students and their parents will have the option of choosing balls or chairs in the classroom, but research suggests that the balls will be effective – particularly for children with attention difficulties. Success will be measured through tracking of disruptive and negative behaviors, and through evaluation of student performance.

Requested: \$650, Granted: \$650

Flight: Past, Present, and Future Jim McGuinness, Wendy Scholes, Jill Meserve, Kate Skehill

Falmouth schools are moving from a segmented to an integrated curriculum. This grant supports implementation of an interdisciplinary unit on flight, which will be offered as an after-school enrichment class. Flight: Past, Present, and Future is an instructional unit which explores flight through math, science, and social studies. Students calculate distances, build model planes, and learn about the history of flight. The curriculum is also an opportunity to build upon past success with the district’s NASA partnership through video conferencing with NASA scientists. The project includes interaction with high school science students and a possible flight donated by Cape Air. FEF funds will be used to purchase a model drone and apps. Success will be measured through pre-and post-testing on the science of aerodynamics, through weekly assessment of student participation, and through student and parent surveys. In addition, teachers will produce a video of the process, to be shared with colleagues in a professional development session.

Requested: \$1,285, Granted: \$1,285

Teaticket Elementary School

Teaticket Community Ambassadors Julie Duffany and all grades 3 and 4 teachers

This project, partially funded as a pilot, will provide a comprehensive and innovative way for students to build school pride, engage actively in learning, and improve communication with fellow students, families, and the wider Falmouth community. iPads and associated apps will be used by all third and fourth grade students and their families to engage actively with the new common core standards. Tutorials will be uploaded to the Teaticket website and linked to QR codes. Codes will be added to a classroom reference binder, so students will be able to scan them when they need help. Parents will be able to watch the instructional videos to help them help their children. Student-created book reviews, slideshows, or book talks will be placed with QR codes directly on book jackets. New students will be oriented to the school through videos produced by the school's Ambassador program. Interactive art and science exhibits, attended by parents and the wider community, will be created. Project success will be measured through parent and student surveys, student technology portfolios, and attendance at community events.

Requested: \$16,913, Granted: \$9,000

Reflex Math Club Teaticket faculty (K-4)

School data have shown weaknesses in math; this project funds an expansion of the Reflex Math Club, which was started as an engaging and interactive way to increase math fluency. The club, which currently meets before and after school, supervised by teacher volunteers, uses the computer lab and Reflex Math “high interest” software to improve math fact knowledge and fluency. The program is both popular and successful: participating Teaticket second graders showed a 154% increase in their math facts knowledge over the four weeks of use. The goal of the grant is to bring this successful approach to the whole school, to be used during the school day in all classrooms. FEF funds will purchase a 12-month site license.

Requested: \$4,995, Granted: \$3,000

Social Thinking Sandy Maloney and Mary McGrath, Speech Pathologists

Children with autism have social challenges that make it very difficult to develop meaningful and success relationships with peers and staff. They may also have language processing challenges that make literary comprehension difficult. Two curricula, Superflex and Incredible Flexible You are social thinking programs designed by specifically for children with autism. FEF funding will support the purchase of the curriculum packages which include workbooks, props, and other teaching tools. Success will be measured by each student's ability to meet Individualized Education Program goals and objectives. This process includes development of goals, ongoing collection of data, and comprehensive progress reporting 2-3 times per year.

Requested: \$572, Granted: \$575